

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BOGOTA 03626 042155 Z

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SUBJECT: RELEASE OF TWO KIDNAPPED ANTIOQUENO INDUSTRIALISTS

USCINCSO FOR POLAD

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SUMMARY: ON SATURDAY APRIL 30 TWO ANTIOQUENO INDUSTRIALISTS HELD CAPTIVE FOR 114 DAYS WERE RELEASED BY THEIR CAPTORS. RELATIVES OF THE

TWO, CAPTURED AT THE SAME TIME, STILL ARE BEING HELD BY ALLEGED ELN KIDNAPPERS WHO, ACCORDING TO ONE PRESS REPORT, ARE DEMANDING \$10 MILLION PESOS FOR THEIR RELEASE (ONE PESO EQUALS APPROXIMATELY 4.3 CENTS). RADIO AND PRESS REPORTS STATE THAT A RANSOM MAY HAVE BEEN PAID FOR THE TWO WHO WERE RELEASED, ALTHOUGH THEY HAVE DENIED THIS. THE TWO HAVE REMAINED IN ALMOST TOTAL SECLUSION. END SUMMARY.

1. THE DAILY PRESS OF APRIL 3 CARRIED EXTENSIVE COVERAGE OF THE RELEASE ON SATURDAY, APRIL 30 OF TWO OF FIVE WEALTHY ANTIOQUIAN INDUSTRIALISTS KIDNAPPED BY THE ELN ON JANUARY 5 AND 6. THE TWO RELEASED ARE ARMANDO MORA AND E LA HOZ AND CARLOS ANGEL VILLA. THOSE STILL IN CAPTIVITY ARE ALVARO MORA (SON OF ARMANDO MORA DE LA HOZ), UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 02 BOGOTA 03626 042155 Z

MARINAO OSPINA ROBLEDO AND CARLOS ROBERTO ANGEL (SON OF CARLOS ANGEL VILLA.)

2. ACCORDING TO THEIR STATEMENTS, MORA DE LA HOZ AND ANGEL VILLA WERE TAKEN TOTALLY BY SURPRISE WHEN THEIR CAPTIVES TOLD THEM ON SATURDAY, APRIL 30, THAT THEY WERE FREE AND INDICATED THE DIRECTION THEY SHOULD WALK TO GET TO THE NEAREST TOWN. FOLLOWING A DAY AND A HALF OF WALKING THROUGH THE THICK FORESTS THE TWO ARRIVED AT THE TOWN OF GUARANDA (ON THE BORDER OF SUCRE AND BOLIVAR DEPARTMENTS) AND REPORTED TO THE POLICE DETACHMENT THERE. THEY WERE FLOWN TO MEDELLIN THE FOLLOWING DAY AND HAVE REMAINED IN ALMOST TOTAL SECLUSION EVER SINCE.

3. THE TWO EMPHASIZED, IN STATEMENTS READ FOR THEM BY THE COLONEL IBANEZ LOZADA, COMMANDER OF THE MEDELLIN NATIONAL POLICE DETACHMENT THAT THEY RECEIVED GOOD AND COURTEOUS TREATMENT, AMPLE IF SIMPLE FOOD HAD SUFFERED NO MAJOR ILLNESSES DURING THEIR CAPTIVITY, ALTHOUGH THEY HAD BEEN ALMOST CONSTANTLY ON THE MOVE. THEY ALSO SAID THAT THE OTHER THREE CAPTIVES HAD BEEN ALIVE AND WELL AT LEAST UNTIL TEN DAYS BEFORE THEIR OWN RELEASE WHEN THEY SAW THEM FO THE LAST TIME.

4. THE EXTREME MEASURES TAKEN TO SHIELD THE TWO INDUSTRIALISTS FROM ANY PUBLICITY OR FROM ANY CONTACT WITH THE PRESS HAVE GIVEN RISE TO SPECULATION CONCERNING THEIR RELEASE. ONE REPORT CARRIED BY LOCAL RADIO STATIONS AND PICKED UP BY THE CONSERVATIVE DAILY LA REPUBLICA SAYS THAT THE 6 MILLION PESOS HAD BEEN FOR THEIR RELEASE AND THAT THE TWO ARE TRYING TO GET TOGETHER ANOTHER \$10 MILLION PESOS DEMANDED BY THE KIDNAPPERS FOR THE RELEASE OF THE THREE CATPIVES STILL HELDBN AND THAT THEY HAVE SWORN AN OATH OF SECRECY TO ELN LEADER FABIO VASQUEZ CASTANO REGARDING THE RANSOM.

5. COMMENT: BOTH INDUSTRIALISTS ARE VERY WEALTHY, AND SINCE THEIR FAMILIES HAVE NOT BEEN WORKING THROUGH THE POLICE OR ARMY TO OBTAIN THEIR RELEASE, IT CAN PROBABLY BE ASSUMED THAT SOME RANSOM HAS BEEN PAID. IN THE EVENT THAT NO RANSOM HAS AS YET BEEN PAID, IT IS PLAUSIBLE THAT THE TWO WERE RELEASED IN ORDER TO RAISE THE NECESSARY RANSOM FOR THE RELEASE OF THE THREE REMAINING KIDNAP VICTIMS, PARTICULARLY IN LIGHT OF STATEENTS BY THEIR FAMILIES THAT THEIR RELEASE IS IMMINENT. THE EPISODE THROWS SOME LIGHT ON THE CONFLICH BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT POLICY OF DISCOURAGING RANSOM PAYMENTS IN UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 03 BOGOTA 03626 042155 Z

ORDER TO MAKE KIDNAPPING LESS REMUNERATIVE AND ATTRACTIVE, AND THE DESIRE OF THE FAMILIES OF KIDNAP VICTIMS TO DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE-- INCLUDING THE PAYMENT OF RANSOM IF NECESSARY-- TO

GET THEIR LOVED ONES BACK. ONE OF THSZMORE INTERESTING REVELATIONS
MADE BY THE RELEASED INDUSTRIALISTS IS THAT THE TWO GROUPS
RESPONSIBLE FOR THE KIDNAPPINGS IN EARLY JANUARY WERE ACTUALLY
WORKING TOGETHER.
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